

REMARKS

Currently, claims 1-8, 67-77, 79-86, 89-97, 101-110, 112-121, and 127-132 remain pending in the above captioned application, including independent claims 1, 67, 101, 114, and 127. As shown above, independent claims 1 and 101 have been amended to require that abrasive particles comprising filler particles or microspheres be attached to the outer surface. See, e.g., pg. 34, lines 15-17. Also, claims 67, 114, and 127 have been amended to require that the outer cover comprises an abrasive surface that includes meltblown shot. See, e.g., pg. 35, line 1 – pg. 36, line 8. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

In the Office Action, independent claims 1, 67, 114, and 127 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,990,377 to Chen, et al., and independent claim 101 was rejected under § 103(a) in view of Chen, et al. Specifically, the Office Action cites the teachings of Chen, et al., particularly Col. 36, ll. 64 to Col. 37, ll. 16, as anticipating independent claims 1, 67, 114, and 127. In this section of Chen, et al., two embodiments are disclosed. First, Chen, et al. states that an absorbent core of an absorbent article can be “replaced by a series of resilient basesheet layers, such as the wet resilient uncreped, through-air-dried (“UCTAD”) basesheets... and a dual-zoned absorbent web containing hydrophobic material... placed in superposed relation” on the series of resilient basesheet layers. Col. 36, line 64 - Col. 37, line 6. Chen, et al. teaches that this embodiment can replace the absorbent core utilized in an absorbent structure, which has a liquid impervious backsheet that prevents leakage. Nowhere does Chen, et al. disclose or even suggest, however, that this replacement for an absorbent core can be used for cleaning a surface. Thus, it would not make sense to one of ordinary skill in the

art to include some type of abrasive surface or particles on the outer surface for scrubbing.

Secondly, Chen, et al. discloses that a “hand towel” can be made from the uncreped, non-compressively dried basesheets. However, in this embodiment, no multi-layer compressible substrate comprising a plurality of stacked plies is disclosed. In this embodiment of Chen, et al., the hydrophilic fibers of the basesheet are utilized to absorb fluids.

In any event, Chen, et al. fails to teach or even suggest in any embodiment the use of an abrasive particles comprising filler particles or microspheres attached to an outer cover, as required by independent claims 1 and 101. Likewise, Chen, et al. fails to disclose the use of meltblown shot as an abrasive surface, as required by independent claims 67, 11, and 127.

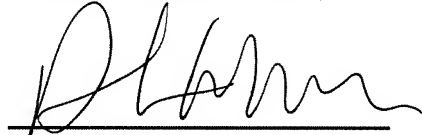
The Office Action states that Chen, et al. discloses adhesive containing regions that are noticeably stiffer than the surrounding base sheet, citing col. 45, lines 59-60. However, the disclosure of a “stiffer” adhesive does not equate to the abrasive particles or meltblown shot that facilitates scrubbing of a surface. Also, this example is directed to a single layer sheet, not a multi-layer substrate comprising a plurality of stacked plies of a textured paper web, such as in claim 1. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Chen, et al. does not anticipate, nor render obvious, the pending independent claims of the present application.

Applicants also submit herewith the executed Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 that was referenced in Applicants’ previous response.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and therefore request reconsideration and favorable action. Should

Examiner Stephens have any further questions or concerns, she is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date

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